France

Physical Features

France is located on the mainland of western Europe. It has sea borders to the north (English Channel), west (Atlantic Ocean) and south (Mediterranean Sea). Mountain ranges include the French Alps, the Massif Central and the Pyrenees. One of Europe's highest peaks, Mont Blanc, is in the French Alps. Many rivers flow across France including the Rhine, the Loire and the Seine.

Wildlife and Vegetation

More than one-quarter of France is covered in forest. To the south, there are areas of maquis, which is scrubland with small trees, such as olive and fig. The alpine marmot lives in mountainous regions and is an omnivore, feeding on herbs, grasses, insects and spiders. The grey wolf was once hunted to near extinction but its numbers are recovering. It now lives in several mountainous areas in France.

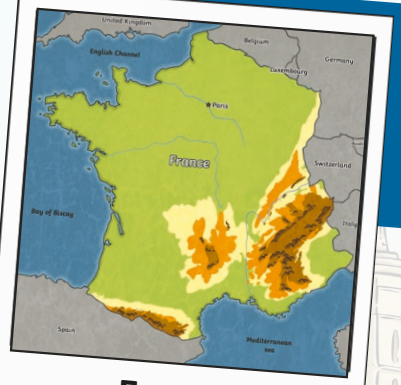
Food

French people are well-known for their love of food. Among the many traditional dishes, 'pot-au-feu' is considered to be the national dish. It is a meat and vegetable stew, cooked for a long time in one pot. Patisseries are shops that sell pastries and cakes, such as macarons and croissants. Cheese is also enjoyed by many French people, for example camembert, brie and roquefort.

Other Information

Bastille Day is a national celebration held on 14th July. It marks the beginning of the French Revolution in 1789.

The Eiffel Tower was built in 1889 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the French Revolution.



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Quick Facts

Capital City: Paris

Land Borders: Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Monaco, Andorra and Spain

Population: Over 64 million (2023)

Official Language: French

Climate: Cool winters and mild summers but mild winters and hot summers along France's Mediterranean coast.